**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended): A server system that processes an incoming request for information from a user over a network, the server system comprising:

one or more source servers that store the information;

a first server, communicatively coupled to the one or more source servers and to the network[[;]], that receives the incoming request from the network; and

the first server testing the [[the]] incoming request for [[an]] indicia contained within the request that the request is not ~~proper~~ valid for the one or more source servers to respond to the request, wherein the indicia includes a particular IP address in a context of prior requests, and wherein the context of prior requests is based on a number of requests for information from the particular IP address in a particular amount of time, and passing the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the incoming request is valid.

2. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 1, the one or more source servers transmitting information to the first server in response to the incoming request; and

the first server retransmitting the information to the user.

3. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 1, wherein the first server does not pass the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the incoming request [[is an]] contains indicia that the request is not ~~proper~~ valid for the one or more source servers to respond to the request.

4. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 1, wherein an incoming request is ~~determined~~ determined to be not ~~proper~~ valid when ~~the when~~ the request is for access to a particular resource.

5. (Currently Amended): A computing system that preprocesses and monitors incoming requests for information from a user over a network, the information stored on

one or more source servers communicatively coupled to the computing system, the computing system comprising:

a network input port that receives the incoming request;

a source server port, communicatively coupled to the one or more source servers, that transmits the information to and from the one or more source servers;

[[a]] an intrusion detection mechanism communicatively coupled to the network input port;

the intrusion detection mechanism receiving the incoming request from the network and checking the [[the]] incoming request for indicia of an ~~improper~~ invalid request from information associated with the incoming request, wherein the information associated with the incoming request includes a predetermined maximum number of requests by a particular IP address in a particular amount of time; and

the intrusion detection mechanism transmitting the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the indicia associated with the incoming request [[is]] are valid.

6. (Currently Amended): The computing system of claim 5, the one or more source servers transmitting information to the source server port in response to the incoming request; and

the system retransmitting the information to the user.

7. (Currently Amended): The computing system of claim 5, wherein the intrusion detection mechanism does not pass the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the incoming request has [[an]] indicia that it is ~~not proper~~ invalid.

8. (Currently Amended): The computing system of claim 5, wherein an incoming request has [[an]] indicia that it is ~~not proper~~ invalid when requesting access to a particular resource.

9. (Currently Amended): A method for preprocessing an incoming request for information from a user over a network, the information stored on one or more source servers communicatively coupled to a computing system, the method comprising:

receiving the incoming request on the computing system;

determining if the incoming request [[is]] has indicia of not being proper, wherein the indicia ~~associated with the incoming request~~ includes a particular IP address in a context of prior requests, and wherein the context of prior requests is based on a number of requests for information from the particular IP address in a particular amount of time; and

selectively not transmitting the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the incoming request [[is]] contains indicia of not being proper.

10. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the determining step ~~of determining~~ is performed by a software resident on the computing system.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, further comprising:

transmitting the information from the one or more source servers to the computer system in response to the incoming request; and

the computing system retransmitting the information to the user.

12. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 9, wherein [[an]] the incoming request [[is]] contains indicia of not being proper when requesting access to a particular resource.

13. (Currently Amended): A computer program product on a computer usable medium, the computer usable medium having [[a]] computer usable program code embodied therein for preprocessing an incoming request for information from a user over a network, the information stored on one or more source servers communicatively coupled to a computing system, the computer usable program code including:

first instructions for receiving the incoming request on the computing system;

second instructions for determining if the incoming request contains indicia of not being proper, wherein the indicia includes a particular IP address in a context of prior requests, and wherein the context of prior requests is based on a number of requests for information from the particular IP address in a particular amount of time; and

third instructions for selectively transmitting the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the incoming request contains indicia of being proper.

14. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the second instructions ~~for determining~~ are performed by a software resident on the computing system.

15. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:

fourth instructions for transmitting the information from the one or more source servers to the computer system in response to the incoming request; and

~~the computing system having~~ fifth instructions for retransmitting the information to the user.

16. (Currently Amended): The computer program product of claim 13, wherein [[an]] the incoming request is invalid when requesting access to a particular resource.

17. (Currently Amended): A server system that processes an incoming request for information from a user over a network, the server system comprising:

one or more source servers that store the information;

a first server, communicatively coupled to the one or more source servers and to the network[[;]], that receives the incoming request from the network; ~~and~~

the first server detecting an intrusion [[of]] by the incoming request ~~in the context of prior requests and~~ based on indicia of the incoming request being ~~proper~~ improper, ~~such indicia being associated with the incoming request~~ wherein the indicia includes a particular IP address in a context of prior requests, and wherein the context of prior

requests is based on a number of requests for information from the particular IP address in a particular amount of time[[,]]; and

the first server passing the incoming request to the one or more source servers when the indicia associated with the incoming request indicates that the incoming request is proper.

18. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 17, wherein the context of prior requests comprises requests for the same information.

19. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 17, wherein the context of prior requests comprises requests for different information from a common computing device coupled [[over]] to the network.

20. (Currently Amended): The server system of claim 17, wherein the context of prior requests is based on a number of requests for the same information.

21-22. (Canceled)